

HOUSE RESOLUTION 43

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A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Satterwhite Farm upon its designation as the Maury County Chamber and Economic Alliance Century Farm of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute that most noble agricultural institution, the family farm, which serves as a cornerstone for our communities while bringing credit and acclaim to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy family farm is Satterwhite Farm of Maury County, owned by John and Argie Satterwhite, Jr., that has been honored and designated as the Maury Alliance Century Farm of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the Century Farm Program was established to recognize the dedication and contributions of those families who have retained ownership of the same farm for more than a century, persevering through succeeding generations and coping with wars, floods, droughts, economic crises, and other obstacles presented by way of natural and human intervention; and

WHEREAS, the land on which the farm is located dates back to John's great-great-great-grandfather, Edward Sheegog, who emigrated to Tennessee from Ireland in 1810 and owned property around Sunnyside, Pulaski Highway, and Sheegog Lane; and

WHEREAS, Edward's grandson, William James Sheegog, began putting the present farm together in 1898 and added land through the depression, ending up with approximately 235 acres; and

WHEREAS, William James married Maud Matthews and obtained another 200 acres of land on the north side of Sheegog Lane, and he built a house for Maud on the south side of the lane, which is the current home of John Satterwhite, Jr.'s sister, CJ; and

WHEREAS, William James and Maud had three children, John Edward Sheegog, Fleming Sheegog, and Jane Sheegog, John and CJ Satterwhite's mother; and

WHEREAS, Jane Sheegog met John William Satterwhite, Sr., in Erin, Tennessee, while she was working for the government, and they were married on Christmas Day in 1941; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 1942, John William left to serve in World War II, and Jane moved home to the Sheegog family farm to await his return; and

WHEREAS, when he returned from war, John William came to Maury County and Sheegog Farm, where he and Jane remained; and

WHEREAS, when Jane's father passed away, the three children inherited the family farm; when Fleming Sheegog passed away, Jane and John William inherited the south side of Sheegog, where the Satterwhites remain to this day, and John Edward Sheegog inherited the north side of Sheegog Farm, land which is no longer owned by the family; and

WHEREAS, at the time of the death of both of Jane's brothers, John William Satterwhite was serving as an employee at the Tennessee Valley Authority, but took over the farm because it was his dream; and

WHEREAS, John Satterwhite, Jr., married his wife, Argie, in 1983, and they have three children, Will, Katie, and Laura; Will and Katie both assist with the farm, and Laura attends college at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, Satterwhite Farm has a storied history of raising cows, mules, sheep, chicken, and pigs, and growing crops such as wheat and corn; and

WHEREAS, at present day, Satterwhite Farm consists of 250 acres, and the primary products are beef cattle, tobacco, hay, and Christmas trees; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud John and Argie Satterwhite, Jr., and the entire Satterwhite family for their dedication to farming, recognizing the importance of the family farm to our communities and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby congratulate and commend Satterwhite Farm upon its receipt of the Maury County Chamber and Economic Alliance Century Farm of the Year Award in honor of its contributions to the agribusiness industry in Tennessee and extend to the Satterwhite family our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.